

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

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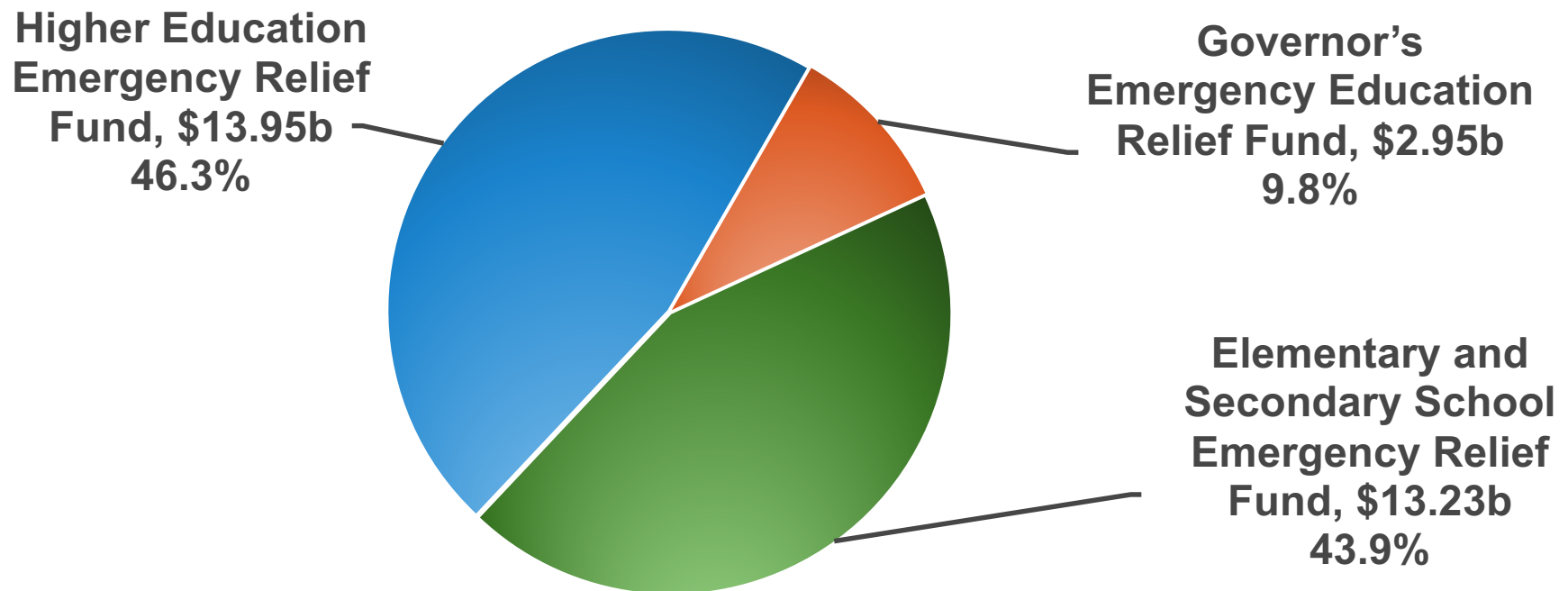
OKLAHOMA
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What is the CARES Act?

- Single largest stimulus package in U.S. history.
- Became law March 27, 2020.
- Appropriates roughly **\$2 trillion** in coronavirus relief funding for individuals, businesses, corporations, state governments, public health and education.
- Grants significant flexibility in use of funds for responding to emerging needs.

Education Relief Funding (\$30.75b total)



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)

- Oklahoma anticipates receiving just under **\$161 million** in K-12 funding.
- 90% of these funds are required to be distributed to LEAs (i.e., districts).
- 0.5% of total funds may be reserved for administrative costs.
- 10% of funds may be used for “emergency needs” as determined by OSDE and may be issued as grants.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)

- LEAs will receive funds proportionally equal to the amount of Title 1 funding received in the most recent allocation.
- Allowable uses:
 1. any activity authorized by ESEA (IDEA, McKinney-Vento, etc.);
 2. coordinate efforts with departments of health;
 3. resources for school leaders to address individual student needs;
 4. delivery of services to at-risk and minority students;
 5. procedures to improve school preparedness and response;
 6. training on sanitation/minimizing the spread;

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)

7. purchase cleaning supplies;
8. plan for/coordinate services during long-term closures (providing meals, online learning, IDEA services, etc.);
9. purchase educational technology (including hardware, software and connectivity) to conduct online learning;
10. provide mental health services and supports;
11. summer learning activities, supplemental after-school programs;
12. other activities necessary to ***maintain the operation and continuity of services*** and continuing to employ existing staff.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)

- Funds can benefit all students and school sites of a district, not only Title I schools.
- USDE must make SEA application for funds available within 30 days of passage (i.e., April 27).
- Funds flow through the State Education Agency (i.e., OSDE). OSDE will allocate these to districts as quickly as possible.
- Funds available for use through September 30, 2021.

Application and Assurances

- Both the SEA and LEA will have to apply for the funds and complete certain assurances.
- Each LEA receiving monies through the CARES Act “shall to the greatest extent practicable, ***continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.***”

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)

- Oklahoma anticipates receiving just under **\$40 million**.
- The Governor may use funds to support any of the following:
 - LEAs OSDE deems most significantly impacted;
 - Higher education institutions the Governor deems most impacted; and/or
 - Any other education-related entity the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

- In order for Oklahoma to qualify for CARES Act education funding, the state must assure that it will:
- Maintain support for education in the next two fiscal years at a level greater than or equal to the average of the prior three fiscal years.
- May be waived for states that “have experienced a precipitous decline in financial resources.”

Emergency Education Waivers

- USDE authority for waivers of assessment, accountability and reporting requirements.
- Secretary to recommend to Congress any additional waivers needed, including IDEA, the Rehabilitation Act, Perkins and ESSA.
- Waivers may never request an exception from civil rights law and expire after 2019-20 school year.

Funding Flexibility Waivers

(USDE granted April 7)

- 15% carryover limitation for FY 19 Title I, Part A
- Extend the period of availability for expiring funds (FY 18) until September 30, 2021
- Needs assessment aligns to use of funds
- Title IV, Part A content-area spending requirements
 - Well-rounded education, safe and health schools, use of technology, including 15% spending cap on infrastructure
- Definition of “professional development”

Future Emergency Relief?

- Congress is currently deliberating on a fourth supplementary coronavirus relief package.
- Additional E-Rate funds may be included in this package (funds to schools and libraries for technology infrastructure like broadband).



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